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**Living Plants and their Properties.**<sup>1</sup> — These essays were read, on various occasions within the last few years, to audiences as diverse as the Linnean Society of London and "The Parlor Club, an organization devoted to literary and scientific culture, Lafayette, Indiana," or else were published in magazines, bulletins of agricultural experiment stations, etc.

The preface expresses the hope that this volume will arouse a more general interest in the phases of botany treated. The reviewer fears that the general reader will be discouraged by two qualities common to the majority of the essays. First, the number of undefined technical terms, familiar enough to botanists, but rather appalling to others, and of Latin generic names, unaccompanied by any suggestion as to the family of the plants spoken of, is unfortunately large. Second, the absence of definite conclusions concisely summed up at the end of discussions.

If so much adverse criticism may be brought against the book, much may, on the other hand, be said in its favor. The authors are professional botanists, know what they are talking about, and have the faculty of saying things attractively. More than this, in treating physiological subjects and problems, they consistently indicate the fundamental identity of the functions of animals and plants, and show that this is due to their having the same living substance as the physical basis of their existence. The elucidation and the understanding of any function of a plant is greatly facilitated by a comparison with the much more familiar expression of the same function in man or in some other animal; but it does not necessarily follow, as is well stated in the essay on the special senses of plants, that all the advantage is on one side. When animal and plant physiologists realize that they have common problems which they can best work out together, they will be as helpful to each other as the animal and plant cytologists have been and still are; and together they will be more effective in advancing knowledge than when the one cleaves only to muscles and the other to roots.

GEORGE J. PEIRCE.

**A New Botanical Journal.** — The following preliminary announcement of a new periodical has just been received:

The New England Botanical Club is considering the publication of a monthly journal, to begin January 1, 1899. It is to be an octavo of about

<sup>1</sup> *Living Plants and their Properties.* A collection of essays by Joseph Charles Arthur, Sc.D., and Daniel Trembly MacDougal, Ph.D. New York, Baker and Taylor, 8vo, 242 pp., 30 pls., and figures.

sixteen pages each issue, and illustrated by full-page plates. It will deal primarily with the flora of New England, especial attention being given to rare plants, extended ranges of distribution, and newly introduced, as well as newly described, species. Articles have been already promised by many of the foremost New England botanists, both professional and amateur, and while a high standard will be maintained in the matter of scientific accuracy, needless technicality of style will be carefully avoided, so that any person who can use *Gray's Manual* will be able to read the proposed journal with pleasure and interest. Not only the flowering plants and ferns, but fleshy fungi and other cryptogams will receive attention. The price of the journal has been fixed at one dollar per annum.

While more than two hundred subscriptions have already been promised in advance, the Club does not feel warranted in proceeding with its plan of publication unless assured of much further support. All persons interested in botany and in the maintenance of such a journal in New England are earnestly solicited to send at once subscriptions for at least one year (which, however, need not be paid before January 15, 1899) to

EDWARD L. RAND,

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740 Exchange Building, Boston, Mass.

It may seem remarkable that with the many existing botanical periodicals it should be thought necessary to establish new ones, but it is clear that the journal here contemplated will be devoted to a field not at present cultivated by any existing periodical, namely, the local flora of New England. The journal will, doubtless, be largely systematic, and will attempt to do for New England what such periodicals as the *Deutsche Botanische Monatschrift*, *Österreichische Botanische Zeitschrift*, etc., have long done so admirably for the European regions they cover. In the present enthusiasm for histology, cytology, œcology, and vegetable physiology, it is not uncommon for a botanical student to plunge into structural problems of extreme technicality without adequate systematic training to give him a proper sense of proportion in his work. To know well the different groups of some one local flora is not only in itself a great source of pleasure, but is a most excellent preparation for subsequent histological or physiological study. There is, furthermore, a great deal still to do upon the systematic botany of New England. Some of the most common species of plants are proving themselves to be puzzling aggregates of closely related forms, each of which must be studied separately before its proper status and exact distribution can be learned. The flora is constantly changing, through the extermination

of species in certain localities, and the still more common introduction of plants of the Old World. There are many reasons why these changes should be carefully watched and duly recorded. Papers dealing with these matters, however, are chiefly of local interest, and lose much of their instructive power and significance if published in a journal remote from the field they cover. It is, doubtless, with a clear perception of these conditions that the New England Botanical Club proposes to issue a small but convenient medium for such communications regarding the flora of New England. The Club was founded in December, 1895, and now contains thirty-five resident members (those living within twenty-five miles of Boston), and as many non-resident members. Its annually elected presidents have been Prof. W. G. Farlow, Mr. N. T. Kidder, and Prof. G. L. Goodale. The herbarium of the Club is situated in the Botanical Museum at Cambridge, Mass. It has been of rapid growth, and is likely to become the most complete local collection of New England plants. The earnest and scholarly *personnel* of the New England Botanical Club is the best guarantee for the success of the proposed journal.

B. L. R.

**Garden-Making.**<sup>1</sup>—While horticulture is an art rather than a science, its methods and results have such a manifold bearing upon plant life that a good work on gardening must always have a great interest for botanists. The 400-page octavo now at hand is neat, carefully planned, and copiously illustrated. It is true, in this age of handy manuals, these may not seem very exceptional qualities, but Professor Bailey's book has still more to recommend it. It comprises the result of much experience, is simple and practical in its suggestions, and, above all, is written in a style which is animated and really entertaining. Suggestive works on horticulture are not rare; that is, books which are either repositories of carefully stated facts or books which with less critical presentation of facts have a pleasing style, but a book which combines a wealth of accurate and practical information with a clear, vivacious, and at times even humorous style is truly exceptional.

To many people a garden is a source of more discouragement and vexation than of pleasure. To such persons Professor Bailey's charmingly facetious introduction must come as a cheering philosophy, renewing interest and inspiring courage. It runs: "Every family can

<sup>1</sup> By L. H. Bailey, aided by L. R. Taft, F. A. Waugh, and E. Walker. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York, 1898. \$1.00.